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+4048156118

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Attorneys at Law

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Suite 2800 1100 Peachtree St.
Atlanta GA 30309-4530
1 404 815 6500 f 404 815 6555
www.KilpatrickStockton.com

direct dial 404 685 6790
direct fax 404 541 3244

BHolmes@KilpatrickStockton.com

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COMMENTS

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is asked to acknowledge receipt of the following:

1. Agenda for Telephone Interview
2. Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Applicant: Kumiko Ohmori, et al.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/619,716; filed: July 15, 2003

Examiner: Abul K. Azad

Art Unit: 2654

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PAGE 1/5 * RCVD AT 10/27/2006 5:54:18 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/4 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+4048156118 * DURATION (mm:ss):01:48

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

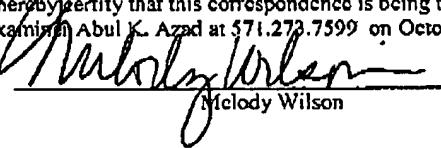
Applicant: Kumiko OHMORI et al.)
Serial No.: 10/619,716) Art Unit: 2654
Filing Date: July 15, 2003) Examiner: Azad, Abul K.
For: Speech Recognition Based)
Interactive Information)
Retrieval Scheme Using)
Dialogue Control to Reduce)
User Stress)

Attorney Docket No. 44471/287603

Date: October 27, 2006

Certificate Of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to
Examiner Abul K. Azad at 571.272.7599 on October 27, 2006.


Melody Wilson

AGENDA FOR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

A telephone interview with the Examiner is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 2006 at 11:00 am ET. The following issues are proposed for discussion during the interview.

Rejection of Claim 18

Claim 18 is set forth below for discussion purposes.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of speech recognition based on interactive information retrieval for ascertaining and retrieving a target information of a user by determining a retrieval key entered by the user using a speech recognition processing, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) storing retrieval key candidates that are classified according to attribute values of an attribute item in a speech recognition database;
- (b) requesting the user by a speech dialogue with the user to enter a speech input indicating an attribute value of the attribute item for the retrieval key, and carrying out the speech recognition processing for the speech input to obtain a recognition result indicating attribute value candidates and their recognition likelihoods;
- (c) selecting those attribute value candidates which have recognition likelihoods that are exceeding a prescribed likelihood threshold as attribute value leading candidates, and extracting those retrieval key candidates that belong to the attribute value leading candidates as new recognition target data;
- (d) requesting the user by a speech dialogue with the user to enter another speech input indicating the retrieval key, and carrying out the speech recognition processing for the another speech input with respect to the new recognition target data to obtain another recognition result; and
- (e) carrying out a confirmation process using a speech dialogue with the user according to the another recognition result to determine the retrieval key.

The Examiner rejected Claims 18, 19, 37, 38, and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,246,981 to Papineni ("Papineni"). As discussed in more detail in the previously filed response, the invention of Claim 18 is directed towards speech recognition. The claimed invention selects attribute value candidates that exceed a prescribed likelihood threshold as attribute value leading candidates. Selecting attribute value leading candidates serves to narrow down the possible attribute value candidates without having to uniquely determine the attribute value. The Examiner alleged that Papineni describes the narrowing down of candidates, as claimed by Claim 18. Papineni describes a dialog manager and script. The system operates using either text or speech. Col. 5, lines 22-24. Although the system can use speech recognition, the "natural language understanding unit . . . may be performed by conventional units," so the focus of Papineni is

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+4048156118

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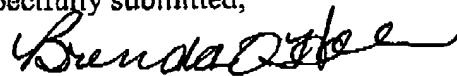
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task completion, not speech recognition. Col. 8, lines 11-17. The dialog manager described by Papineni has "task-oriented forms for associating user input information therewith, the dialog manager being capable of selecting an applicable form from the task-oriented forms responsive to the input information." Col. 3, lines 10-16.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 404/685-6799 if anything else is needed prior to the interview.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Brenda O. Holmes
Reg. No. 40,339

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530
Telephone: (404) 815-6500
Facsimile: (404) 815-6555

Applicant Initiated Interview Request FormApplication No.: 10/619,716First Named Applicant: Kumiko OhmoriExaminer: Abul K. AzadArt Unit: 2626Status of Application: RCE filed

Tentative Participants:

(1) Brenda Holmes

(2) _____

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(3) _____

(4) _____

OCT 27 2006Proposed Date of Interview: 10/31/2006Proposed Time: 11:00 (AM PM

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) Telephonic(2) Personal(3) Video ConferenceExhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: YES NO

If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

| Issues (Rej., Obj., etc) | Claims/ Fig. #s | Prior Art | Discussed | Agreed | Not Agreed |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) <u>Rej.</u> | <u>Claim 18</u> | <u>USPN6,246981</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (4) _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

 Continuation Sheet Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

See attached Agenda

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on
NOTE: This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

Brenda O. Holmes
Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature

Examiner/SPE Signature

Brenda O. Holmes
Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

40,339

Registration Number, if applicable

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.